

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathleen Van Gorden
KVG Communications
401-480-1840
kathleenv@kvgcom.com



**Editor's note: A full festival schedule with venues, times and ticket prices is included at the end of this press release in an at-a-glance format. High resolution images available.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2010

FIRSTWORKS PRESENTS FESTIVAL 2011

A Festival of Firsts. Second to None.

September 22 – November 13, 2011

PROVIDENCE, RI – [FirstWorks](http://www.first-works.org) announced Festival 2011 today, the event that will transform Providence into a multistage spectacle of tour de force performances designed to engage and connect exceptional artists and creators from the world's stage with FirstWorks audiences like never before. Tickets are on sale now at www.first-works.org.

This year's Festival turns Mozart on his ear with the soulful strings of **Brooklyn Rider**, brings the world of illusion and movement to audiences through the deep green lens of **MOMIX' Botanica** and blurs the lines between the real and the imagined with performance artist **Laurie Anderson**. Audiences will journey to Mali via the Caribbean with a fusion of jazz and blues performed by **Balla Kouyaté and World Vision**. Next stop is the **Caravanserai** – a place where cultures meet – and a pageant of master drummers and musicians from Karachi who come to Providence in November to perform and conduct a week-long community arts residency.

"For 2011 the FirstWorks Festival has an unparalleled combination of exhilarating performances, workshops and open dialogue designed to encourage dynamic exchanges between audiences, performers and creators about the big ideas of creativity," said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director, FirstWorks. "More

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than ever before, this year's festival reaches far beyond the stage. We've reached new heights in engaging our community in the creative conversations taking place locally, nationally and across the globe, about the vital role arts and culture play in our society today."

Festival 2011 kicks off with 10 days of the new media revolution, followed by never-seen-here-before performances by six of the most legendary, pioneering artists of our time.

PIXILERATIONS [v.8] opens Festival 2011 with groundbreaking multimedia installations, performances and film/video screenings. Now in its eighth year, PIXILERATIONS [v.8] featuring guest artists from Taiwan, England and Canada, explores new territory with the provocative question, "Where—and what—is New Media Art today?" September 22 through October 2.

October performances span genre-reinventing chamber music, phantasmagoric spectacle, world music, and the world's pop-tech performance queen.

Drawing from its globe-trotting experience with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, **Brooklyn Rider** blends genres and influences seamlessly. **Brooklyn Rider's** October 1 concert will debut a brilliant new original work and illuminate new renditions of scores by master composers Beethoven, Mozart, John Zorn and Phillip Glass in a wildly eclectic repertoire with a gripping performance style that draws critical acclaim from classical, world and rock critics alike.

Pioneering multimedia performance artist **Laurie Anderson** brings her powerfully personal meditation on life, longing, identity and memory to Providence for the first time on October 22. Commissioned by the Vancouver Olympics, **Delusion** offers even those who have seen Laurie Anderson in concert or on screen the chance to be swept away by a stunning full-scale production, which collages imagery, electronic soundscape and spoken vignette.

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Balla Kouyaté And World Vision – featured on Yo-Yo Ma's latest release and Angeliqe Kidjo's *Oyo* – fuse the rich music of Mali with jazz, blues and Caribbean sounds on October 28.

The shape shifting dancers of **MOMIX** celebrate Mother Nature with ***Botanica***, an artful extravaganza of movement, circus, athleticism and magical effects on October 29. Revolutionary dance wunderkind Moses Pendleton has created a lush testimony to the magnificent earthly and other-earthly miracles around us everyday.

Festival 2011 wraps in November with international powerhouses and a world premiere.

On November 5, **Caravanserai** – a place where cultures meet – is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience powerhouse drumming and voices of ancient Sufi music played by masters acclaimed in their own country, but unfamiliar to most Americans.

Voted Rhode Island's best dance company, **LOSTWAX** and Jamie Jewett weave a new fantasy November 10 – 13 in **SEVEN VEILS**, a multimedia dance based on Thalia Field's adaptation of "Salome". This re-imagined "veils" of Salome features an often-humorous score for Jewett's quirky contemporary dance.

About FirstWorks

Beginning with an unprecedented collaboration with Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, FirstWorks was launched in 2004 as a vehicle to build community, reach underserved audiences, and present extraordinary arts programs that elevate Providence's national profile. In the seven years since, FirstWorks has produced 21 groundbreaking arts festivals, attracted more than 95,000 participants, presented over 300 international artists and innovators, engaged more than 100 nonprofit community organizations and schools, and grown into a multidimensional arts organization recognized with eleven National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants.

FirstWorks Festival 2011 - September 22-November 13, 2011
Schedule (as of 8/25/11)

PIXILERATIONS [v.8]

September 22 – October 2

Exhibitions: September 22 – Oct 2, Sol Koffler Gallery & Granoff Center for the Creative Arts - Gallery Hours 12:00-8:00pm daily

Concerts and Performance: September 23-24, Grant Recital Hall, 8:00pm

September 25, Granoff Center for the Creative Arts, 3:00pm

Video Screening: September 27, Cable Car Cinema, 9:00pm

Club Pixil: September 30, Firehouse 13, 9:00pm

Free Admission. Information at first-works.org

"Drawing the visions and talents of local, national, and international artists to Providence." —*Golocal Prov*

Join the new media revolution! Now in its eighth year, PIXILERATIONS continues to amaze Providence audiences with groundbreaking multimedia installations, performances and film/video screenings. In an era of Twitter-inflamed revolutions, biotech ethics wars and YouTube-generated museum exhibitions, this year's festival explores new territory with the provocative question, "Where—and what—is New Media Art today?"

BROOKLYN RIDER

Rhode Island Premiere

October 1, 8:00pm

Martinos Auditorium, Granoff Center for the Creative Arts

Tickets: \$16 advance purchase, \$24 day of performance

first-works.org, 401-421-4281

"This isn't your grandfather's string quartet" —*NPR*

This adventurous, genre-defying string quartet combines a wildly eclectic repertoire with a gripping performance style that draws critical acclaim from classical, world

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and rock critics alike. For FirstWorks, the unparalleled musicianship of these four virtuosos (handpicked for Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble) showcases a brilliant new original work and illuminates new renditions of scores by master composers Beethoven, Mozart, John Zorn and Phillip Glass.

***DELUSION* by Laurie Anderson**

Rhode Island Premiere

October 22, 8:00pm

The VETS

Tickets: Start at \$18 (\$18-\$48)

vmari.com, 401-421-ARTS (2787)

"Every visual image is a bolt of wonderment!" —*Los Angeles Times*

One of America's most renowned and daring creative pioneers, Laurie Anderson returns to FirstWorks with a multimedia performance combining violin, electronic puppetry, music and visuals. At the heart of *Delusion* is the belief that words can create the world, as well as make it disappear. Laurie Anderson's meditation on life, language and memory will sweep you away in a stunning collage of imagery, electronic soundscape and spoken vignette.

BALLA KOUYATÉ AND WORLD VISION

Rhode Island Premiere

October 28, 8:00pm

Roots Café

Tickets: \$16 advance purchase, \$24 day of performance

first-works.org, 401-421-4281

"Balafon master Kouyaté passes down a legacy" —*The Boston Globe*

Move your feet to the beat with the West African rhythms of one of the world's greatest *balafon* players. This renowned storyteller and his ensemble fuse the rich music of Mali with jazz, blues and Caribbean sounds. Balla has been featured on Yo-Yo Ma's latest release as well as Angelique Kidjo's *Oyo*. The signature ancestral sounds of World Vision are at once exotic and universal.

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MOMIX: *BOTANICA***Rhode Island Premiere**

October 29, 8:00pm

Co-presented with Providence Performing Arts Center

Tickets: Start at \$28 (\$28-\$58)

ppacri.com, 401-421-arts (2787)

“Eye-popping and mind-boggling . . . everything looks magical.”

—*The New York Times*

Lose yourself in a forest of fantasy as the shape shifting dancers of MOMIX celebrate Mother Nature like never before. Welcome to *Botanica*, an artful extravaganza of movement, circus, athleticism and magical effects. Creatures real and mythical materialize through dazzling projections and larger-than-life puppets designed by Michael Curry, the Tony Award-winning designer of *The Lion King*. This primeval world forms a magical tableau where MOMIX's impossibly nimble dancer-illusionists redefine gravity. Experience *Botanica*...and take leave of your senses in a garden of blooms.

CARAVANSERAI**U.S. Premiere Tour**

Powerhouse Drumming and Voices of Lahore and Karachi

November 5, 8:00pm

Venue TBA

Tickets: \$10 advance purchase, \$15 day of performance

first-works.org, 401-421-4281

“A timeless journey” —*The Prague Post*

The visceral sounds of the tabla signal a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience ancient Sufi music played by masters acclaimed in their own country, but unfamiliar to most Americans. Joyful devotion and improvisatory freedom drive the music of the Qawwalis, torch-bearers for a 700-year old form of Sufi music; the kinetic virtuosity of Tari Khan throbs with passionate volatility. Join the Caravanserai —a place where cultures meet. --more--

LOSTWAX Multimedia Dance Theater: *SEVEN VEILS* World Premiere

November 10-13, Perishable Theater

Thur/Fri/Sat, 8:00pm, Sun, 7:00pm

Tickets: \$16 advance purchase, \$24 day of performance

first-works.org, 401-421-4281

“One of [Rhode Island’s] most provocative troupes” —*The Providence Phoenix*

Voted Rhode Island’s best dance company, LOSTWAX and Jamie Jewett weave a new fantasy in *Seven Veils*, a multimedia dance based on Thalia Field's adaptation of "Salome". Video by Luke DuBois and choral music by Alexander deVaron provide an often-humorous score for Jewett’s quirky contemporary dance. It’s all there – the dungeon, the palace, the dance, the seductions and betrayals –interweaving voices, dancer, and projections – the re-imagined "veils" of Salome’s story.

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